



July 15, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), I urge the FCC not to place new and higher access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services. New charges would increase the price of services for thousands of low-income and fixed-income individuals, who rely on prepaid calling cards to stay connected.


AALDEF is a 30-year old, New York-based organization that protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans through litigation, advocacy and community education. We represent Asian immigrant workers, tenants and other low-income people who are often not fully proficient in English.

For low- and fixed-income individuals, prepaid calling card services are an important means of staying in touch with friends and family across the country. In fact, prepaid cards may be the only means for disadvantaged consumers to make telephone calls within a tight budget.

The FCC should not change its policy by imposing new "in-state" access charges and fees on calling cards. Such a policy would be highly detrimental to low-income Asian American consumers.

I urge the FCC to make sure that prepaid calling cards remain free of these extra charges and fees.

Sincerely,

  
Margaret Fung  
Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein